

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 04096 191410Z

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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R 190939Z JUN 75 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4888

S E C R E T AMMAN 4096

NODIS/CHEROKEE

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, JO, US, XF

SUBJECT: MESSAGE FOR THE KING

REF: STATE 141233

1. FOLLOWING ARRIVAL REFTEL, I WAS INFORMED BY PALACE THAT KING WAS IN AQABA AND WOULD BE MOST LIKELY LEAVING FROM THERE DIRECTLY FOR GULF. VISIT WAS MOVED UP FROM 24TH TO 19TH FOR BAHRAIN AND 20TH AND 21ST FOR UAE. VISIT TO OMAN BEING DROPPED FOR TIME BEING. AS A RESULT, I HAD AN OPPORTUNITY NOON JUNE 18 TO SEE RIFAI AND DELIVER MESSAGE TO HIM. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD OF COURSE INFORM KING WHEN HE SEEMS HIM, PROBABLY ON THE WAY TO GULF STATES TOMORROW AFTERNOON.

2. RIFAI DISCUSSED BRIEFLY WITH ME HIS ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION. AT FIRST HE CONCLUDED THAT SITUATION SOMEWHAT MORE POSITIVE THAN RELAYED IN THE MESSAGE. I POINTED OUT TO HIM YOUR SENTENCE ON THE FACT THAT THERE HAS BEEN AN EVOLUTION OF THE THINKING OF BOTH SIDES BUT THAT YOU BELIEVE THE RESULT IS STILL PROBLEMATIC. HE SAID HE WAS STILL HOPEFUL THAT ANOTHER STEP COULD BE TAKEN AND HE TOOK HEART ALSO IN THE RETURN OF AMBASSADOR EILTS TO THE US AS A POSITIVE INDICATOR. FINALLY, HE SAID HE REACHED

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A PRELIMINARY CONCLUSION THAT IF YOU WERE TO TALK TO

DHADDAM ABOUT ISRAELI-SYRIAN NEGOTIATIONS THAT YOU COULD ONLY MEAN THE EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS WERE IN YOUR POCKET. I CAUTIONED HIM AGAINST THIS CONCLUSION AND REMINDED HIM THAT HE WAS THE ONE URGING US TO BE AS POSITIVE AS POSSIBLE WITH THE SYRIANS, BUT THAT DID NOT INDICATE THAT HE SHOULD LOSE SIGHT OF THE FACT THAT YOU HAD STATED THE SUCCESS OF THE ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN EFFORT IS STILL PROBLEMATICAL.

3. AFTER THIS EXIGESIS ON YOUR LETTER I THINK RIFAI HAS CONCLUDED THAT IT'S BEST TO BE CAUTIOUS AND CONSERVATIVE ABOUT MAKING JUDGEMENTS ON THE FUTURE. HE TOLD ME THAT HE HAD HAD SOME INDEPENDENT INFORMATION FROM WASHINGTON AT THE END OF LAST WEEK WHICH HAD TOLD HIM THAT THE ISRAELIS WERE BEING IMPOSSIBLY TOUGH AND THINGS LOOKED VERY BAD. YOUR LETTER HAD CHANGED THAT IN SOME SMALL MEASURE AND GAVE HIM HEART THAT PROGRESS WAS AND PROBABLY COULD BE MADE.

4. WE TALKED A BIT ABOUT THE SOVIETS. HE SAID THAT HE THOUGHT THEY WERE BACKING AWAY FROM GENEVA IN ORDER TO LEAVE US "HOLDING THE BAG". I POINTED OUT TO HIM THAT IN PLAYING OUR PRESENT ROLE WE ARE ALREADY DEEPLY INVOLVED AND THE THOUGHT THAT WE WOULD SOMEHOW OR OTHER SHIFT THIS TO THE SOVIETS AT GENEVA WHILE POSSIBLY ENTICING IN PERIODS WHEN PROGRESS IS HARD, RAN COUNTER TO YOURS AND THE PRESIDENT'S CONSISTENT AND REPEATED STATEMENTS THAT WE WILL REMAIN INVOLVED AND THAT A PROLONGED STALEMATE IS UNACCEPTABLE. IN SUM THE POINT IS AND HAS BEEN NOT WHETHER THE US IS TO BE INVOLVED OR NOT, BUT HOW WE CAN MOST EFFECTIVELY PROMOTE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

5. RIFAI THANKED ME AGAIN FOR THE MESSAGE AND SAID HE APPRECIATES VERY MUCH OUR EFFORTS TO KEEP HIM AND THE KING INFORMED OF PROGRESS IN THE AREA. HE WAS PLEASED ALSO THAT HIS VIEWS ON HOW TO DEAL WITH KHADDAM HAD GOTTEN THROUGH. PICKERING

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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